

η is a time that a wafer is moved by the robot from Step i to Step j ;

$E = \{i | \pi_{iU} > \pi_{Lmax}, i \in \mathbf{N}_4\}$; and
 $F = \mathbf{N}_4 \setminus E$.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising: determining a production cycle of the system.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the determination of the robot waiting time is based on a Petri Net model.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the h is 2.

5. A non-transitory computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing system to perform a computer-implemented method for scheduling a cluster tool, the cluster tool comprising a single-arm robot for wafer handling, a wafer-processing system comprising four process modules including PM_1 , PM_2 , PM_3 , and PM_4 , each for performing a wafer-processing step with a wafer residency time constraint where the i th process module, $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, 4\}$, is used for performing Step i of the wafer-processing steps for each wafer, and a wafer flow pattern having $(PM_1, (PM_2, PM_3)^h, PM_4)$ with $(PM_2, PM_3)^h$ being the revisiting process and $h \geq 2$, the method comprising:

obtaining, by a processor, a lower bound z_{iL} of a production cycle of Step i , $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, 4\}$, as follows:

$$\pi_{1L} = \alpha_1 + 3\mu + 4\lambda;$$

$$\pi_{2L} = 2\alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + 5\mu + 8\lambda;$$

$$\pi_{3L} = 2\alpha_3 + \alpha_2 + 5\mu + 8\lambda; \text{ and}$$

$$\pi_{4L} = \alpha_4 + 3\mu + 4\lambda;$$

obtaining, by a processor, an upper bound π_{iU} of a production cycle of Step i , $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, 4\}$, as follows:

$$\pi_{1U} = \alpha_1 + 3\mu + 4\lambda;$$

$$\pi_{2U} = 2\alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + 5\mu + 8\lambda;$$

$$\pi_{3U} = 2\alpha_3 + \alpha_2 + 5\mu + 8\lambda; \text{ and}$$

$$\pi_{4U} = \alpha_4 + 3\mu + 4\lambda;$$

obtaining, by a processor, a maximum lower bound π_{Lmax} as follows:

$$\pi_{Lmax} = \max\{\pi_{iL}, i \in \mathbf{N}_4\};$$

obtaining, by a processor, a minimum upper bound π_{Umin} as follows:

$$\pi_{Umin} = \min\{\pi_{iU}, i \in \mathbf{N}_4\};$$

determining, by a processor, a robot task time η_1 in a cycle as follows:

$$\eta_1 = 14\lambda + 12\mu + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3;$$

determining, by a processor, a robot waiting time ω_i of Step i as follows:

if $[\pi_{1L}, \pi_{1U}] \cap [\pi_{2L}, \pi_{2U}] \cap [\pi_{3L}, \pi_{3U}] \cap [\pi_{4L}, \pi_{4U}] \neq \emptyset$ and $\eta_1 < \pi_{Lmax}$, then setting $\omega_0 = \omega_1 = \omega_2 = \omega_3 = 0$, and setting $\omega_4 = \pi_{Lmax} - \eta_1$;

else if $[\pi_{1L}, \pi_{1U}] \cap [\pi_{2L}, \pi_{2U}] \cap [\pi_{3L}, \pi_{3U}] \cap [\pi_{4L}, \pi_{4U}] \neq \emptyset$ and $\pi_{Lmax} \leq \eta_1 \leq \pi_{Umin}$, then setting $\omega_0 = \omega_1 = \omega_2 = \omega_3 = 0$;

else if $[\pi_{1L}, \pi_{1U}] \cap [\pi_{2L}, \pi_{2U}] \cap [\pi_{3L}, \pi_{3U}] \cap [\pi_{4L}, \pi_{4U}] = \emptyset$ and $\pi_{Lmax} \leq \eta_1 \leq \pi_{Umin}$, then setting $\omega_i \in \Omega_3$ by

$$\omega_{i-1} = \begin{cases} 0, & i \in F \\ \pi_{Lmax} - \alpha_i - \delta_i - 4\lambda - 3\mu, & i \in E \cap \{1, 4\} \\ \pi_{Lmax} - 2\alpha_2 - \delta_2 - \alpha_3 - 5\mu - 8\lambda, & i \in E \cap \{2\} \\ \pi_{Lmax} - 2\alpha_3 - \delta_3 - \alpha_2 - 5\mu - 8\lambda, & i \in E \cap \{3\} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{and setting } \omega_4 = \pi_{Lmax} - \eta_1 - \sum_{i=0}^3 \omega_i;$$

wherein:

α_i , $i \in \mathbf{N}_4$, is a time that a wafer is processed in the i th process module;

δ_i , $i \in \mathbf{N}_4$, is a longest time that a wafer stays in the i th process module after being processed;

λ is a time that a wafer is loaded or unloaded by the robot from Step i ;

μ is a time that a wafer is moved by the robot from Step i to Step j ;

$E = \{i | \pi_{iU} < \pi_{Lmax}, i \in \mathbf{N}_4\}$; and

$F = \mathbf{N}_4 \setminus E$.

6. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the method further comprises: determining a production cycle of the system.

7. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the determination of the robot waiting time is based on a Petri Net model.

8. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the h is 2.

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